

From: [Murphy, Elizabeth](#)
To: [Herron, Tarsha](#)
Cc: [Elkins, Timothy](#); [Girouard, Taylor](#)
Subject: FW: [SPAM-Sender] RE: Letter from Representative Jay Edwards regarding disposal wells
Date: Thursday, August 19, 2021 10:50:17 AM

Tarsha,

Please record the information below in the RAV for a citizen complaint that Tim Elkins fielded on a UIC concern in the state of Ohio. Taylor Girouard will be reaching out to the citizen to let him know that his complaint has been recorded and that it has been forwarded to Ohio for follow up, will you do that? Taylor will also forward the complaint to Ohio and let them know that we are asking them to be responsive.

Thank you,
Beth Murphy

Elizabeth W. Murphy, MPH
(she/her/hers)
Chief, Section 3
Water Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Branch
US Environmental Protection Agency
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Mail Code ECW-15J
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
Murphy.Elizabeth@epa.gov
phone: (312) 353-4227
1-800-621-8431 x 34227
fax: (312) 980-8745

Report Environmental Violations <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/report-environmental-violation-general-information>

From: Elkins, Timothy <elkins.timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 4:09 PM
To: Murphy, Elizabeth <Murphy.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Cc: Girouard, Taylor <Girouard.Taylor@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: [SPAM-Sender] RE: Letter from Representative Jay Edwards regarding disposal wells

Hi Beth –

I am just circling back on the message I sent earlier today regarding [REDACTED] citizen complaint about injection wells in Marietta, OH. Based on the old email chain below I was able to find his full contact info.

(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D), (b) (6)

Let me know if you need anything else from me. Thanks,

Tim Elkins

U.S. EPA Region 5
Watersheds and Wetlands Branch
Chief, Standards Section
77 W. Jackson Blvd., Mail code WW-16J
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-886-0263

From: Elkins, Timothy
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Andrew.Adgate@dnr.state.oh.us
Cc: Michael.Brown@dnr.state.oh.us; Murphy, Elizabeth <Murphy.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Hansen, Janette <hansen.janette@epa.gov>; Perenchio, Lisa <perenchio.lisa@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: [SPAM-Sender] RE: Letter from Representative Jay Edwards regarding disposal wells

Thanks, Andrew. I understand. Despite the action on the Redbird well, it seems (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) is still having problems with (b) (7)(C) producers, which I understand could be due to uncemented casing across water containing formations.

Tim Elkins

U.S. EPA Region 5
Water Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., Mail code ECW-15J
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-886-0263

From: Andrew.Adgate@dnr.state.oh.us <Andrew.Adgate@dnr.state.oh.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 9:56 AM
To: Elkins, Timothy <elkins.timothy@epa.gov>
Cc: Michael.Brown@dnr.state.oh.us; Murphy, Elizabeth <Murphy.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Hansen, Janette <hansen.janette@epa.gov>; Perenchio, Lisa <perenchio.lisa@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: [SPAM-Sender] RE: Letter from Representative Jay Edwards regarding disposal wells

Tim –

Thanks for providing the email you sent. I wanted to clarify that Redbird did alter their well construction by cementing additional casing that sealed off the Ohio shale injection zone, but did so voluntarily without a mandate from the state.

Andrew Adgate
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil and Gas
614-381-9402

From: Elkins, Timothy <elkins.timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 5:51 PM
To: Adgate, Andrew <Andrew.Adgate@dnr.state.oh.us>
Cc: Brown, Michael <Michael.Brown@dnr.state.oh.us>; Murphy, Elizabeth <Murphy.elizabeth@epa.gov>; Hansen, Janette <hansen.janette@epa.gov>; Perenchio, Lisa <perenchio.lisa@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: [SPAM-Sender] RE: Letter from Representative Jay Edwards regarding disposal wells

Hi Andrew –

FYI, below is my response to [REDACTED] email that [REDACTED] sent today.

Thanks again for the conference call on this matter, and please let me know if there is anything EPA can do to help.

Tim Elkins

U.S. EPA Region 5
Water Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., Mail code ECW-15J
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-886-0263

From: Elkins, Timothy
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:44 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Murphy, Elizabeth <Murphy.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Perenchio, Lisa <perenchio.lisa@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: [SPAM-Sender] RE: Letter from Representative Jay Edwards regarding disposal wells

Hi [REDACTED] –

Thank you for your message, and I am really sorry you are still experiencing problems with your oil production wells. After our conversation the week of June 2, 2020, I spoke with Kenny Brown of the

Ohio DNR, and subsequently, EPA held a conference call with Mr. Brown and Andrew Adgate, ODNR on June 5, 2020 to learn more about the situation as related to your concerns.

Mr. Adgate explained that the Red Bird Development "Red Bird #4 well" which you believe impacted your production wells, received a cease injection notice from the State following report of your concerns, and is not currently operating. Mr. Adgate clarified that the operator was required to modify the operation and construction of the Red Bird #4 well by reworking the well and sealing of the previous injection zone with multiple cement jobs. Although not currently operating, the Red Bird #4 has recently passed a mechanical integrity test. Despite this rework, ODNR mentioned that some production wells in the area may not be cemented to surface or across water bearing formations, which could lead to corrosion and potential casing failures.

ODNR assured EPA that the State is actively sampling and evaluating the situation, but did not currently have a reason to believe underground sources of drinking water (USDWs) are being endangered. Fortunately, Mr. Brown and Mr. Adgate believe the shale layers in the geologic sitting are a sufficient confining zone capable of preventing flow of injected brine into the USDW. It is my understanding, ODNR will continue evaluating the situation and is open to sharing information about its analyses. As ODNR is the authority for regulating oil and natural gas production in the State of Ohio, and has "primacy" or authorization to implement the Class II injection well program in the state, I encourage you to continue communication with Mr. Brown and Mr. Adgate.

Again, I am sorry for the frustrating situation you are experiencing, but would be happy to share any other useful information in the future.

Sincerely,

Tim Elkins

U.S. EPA Region 5
Water Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., Mail code ECW-15J
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-886-0263

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:58 PM
To: Elkins, Timothy <elkins.timothy@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Elizabeth <Murphy.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Perenchio, Lisa <perenchio.lisa@epa.gov>
Subject: [SPAM-Sender] RE: Letter from Representative Jay Edwards regarding disposal wells

Tim,

It's been a few weeks since I talked to you about our disposal well issue. I was hoping you could provide some updates on what you've learned upon looking into this situation. I have lost my best producing well, that was only drilled 5 years ago, to the disposal water in the time since we last

spoke.

Please let me know what you've found out.

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D), (b) (6)



From: Elkins, Timothy [<mailto:elkins.timothy@epa.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 3:45 PM

(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D), (b) (6)

Cc: Murphy, Elizabeth; Perenchio, Lisa

Subject: RE: Letter from Representative Jay Edwards regarding disposal wells

(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D), (b) (6)



Thank you very much taking the time to share your concerns with me today. I am very sorry you have had such a challenging time on these issues. I have reached out to my management and colleagues to review and discuss the information you provided. I have also reached out to the Ohio DNR to learn more about the situation and the State's analyses.

Thank you for forwarding the correspondence on this matter. I will follow-up if I have additional questions as EPA learns more from talking to the parties involved.

Sincerely,

Tim Elkins

U.S. EPA Region 5
Water Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., Mail code ECW-15J
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-886-0263

From: (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D), (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 12:56 PM

To: Elkins, Timothy <elkins.timothy@epa.gov>

Subject: Letter from Representative Jay Edwards regarding disposal wells

Tim,

See attached letter that Jay Edwards wrote to Director Mary Mertz, along with her response.

We really appreciate your help in this critical matter.

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D), (b) (6)



CAUTION: This is an external email and may not be safe. If the email looks suspicious, please do not click links or open attachments and forward the email to csc@ohio.gov or click the Phish Alert Button if available.